

FONT AT LITTLEBURY CHURCH, ESSEX.

THIS very curious example of a font and case is still preserved at Littlebury Church. It stands under the tower arch, the upper portion of which is so entirely blocked up, that the figure on the top of the font cannot be sufficiently distinguished to see for whom it is intended.

GEORGE TRUEFITT.

THE SCULPTURED DECORATIONS OF THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

PASS of matter prevented us last week from referring to the fourth report of the Commissioners on the fine arts, then just published, but this seemed the less important as it had already kept five months, being dated May 15th.

It refers solely to the question of public monuments to men distinguished for eminent literary, scientific, and civil services, referred to their consideration by Sir Robert Peel, and is signed, Albert, Lyndhurst, Sutherland, Lansdowne, Lincoln, Aberdeen, J. Russell, Palmerston, Melbourne, Mahon, Ashburton, Colborne, C. S. Lefevre, Robert Peel, J. R. G. Graham, T. B. Macaulay, Robert Harry Inglis, B. Hawes, jun., Henry Hallam, Samuel Rogers, and Thomas Wyse.

"We have found," say the Commissioners, "in the course of our inquiry that many situations for statues consist of niches only, which, in accordance with the style of Gothic architecture adopted, are uniformly narrow, not exceeding two feet in width; that there are also situations where insulated statues might be fitly placed; and we conceive that, with a view both to convenient inspection, and the expediency of affording opportunities for displaying the abilities of the artists, the last-named situations are the most important."

We have also found that some situations, though not fit for the display of statues, would be well adapted for the reception of busts; and we are of opinion that busts might be considered among the means before referred to of doing honour to eminent men."

Without thinking it expedient to point out all the localities which may be adapted for statues, the Commissioners go on to say, "We have now to express our opinion that six insulated marble statues might be conveniently placed in St. Stephen's porch, and that sixteen such statues might be conveniently placed in St. Stephen's hall. We are of opinion that it is not desirable that a corresponding number of eminent names be now pointed out with a view to the entire occupation of those places; but we are at once prepared to recommend that statues of Marlborough and Nelson be placed in St. Stephen's porch; and that statues of Selden, Hampden, Lord Falkland, Lord Clarendon, Lord Somers, Sir Robert Walpole, Lord Chatham, Lord Mansfield, Burke, Fox, Pitt, and Grattan be placed in St. Stephen's hall."

They then recommend Marshall, Bell, and Foley to execute three of these statues (as is already known), and end by asking for 2,000*l.* on account, towards the payment of such works.

The appendix to the report contains a report of a sub-committee appointed to "prepare a general list of distinguished persons of the United Kingdom to whose memory statues might with propriety be erected in or adjoining the New Houses of Parliament," with two lists; the first containing names to which they agreed unanimously; the second of names on which they were not unanimous, but decided by greater or smaller majorities; and this is signed, Mahon, T. B. Macaulay, Robert Harry Inglis, Henry Hallam, Samuel Rogers, Thomas Wyse, and B. Hawes, jun.

The report says, "The aggregate of these two lists consists of 121 names, which may probably afford scope, not for indiscriminate adoption, but rather for choice and selection on the part of the commission at large;" a remark which appears to have been overlooked by those who have found fault with the names given.

At the risk of telling a twice told tale, we think it necessary to print the lists, if it be but for the sake of reference hereafter.

The names agreed to unanimously:—Alfred, Elizabeth, Robert Bruce; Lord Burleigh,

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E. & J. ALMON

John Hampden, Earl of Clarendon, Lord Somers, Earl of Chatham, Edmund Burke, C. J. Fox, William Pitt; Sir Thomas More, Sir Edward Coke, John Selden, Sir Matthew Hale, Earl of Mansfield, Lord Erskine; Venerable Bede, Richard Hooker; Sir William Wallace, Sir Philip Sidney, Duke of Marlborough, Lord Clive, Lord Heathfield; Lord Howard of Effingham, Sir Francis Drake, Admiral Blake, Lord Rodney, Lord Howe, Lord Duncan, Lord St. Vincent, Lord Nelson; Sir Walter Raleigh, Captain Cook; Sir Thomas Gresham; Chaucer, Spenser, Earl of Surrey, Shakespeare, Milton, Addison, Richardson, Dr. Johnson, Cowper, and Sir Walter Scott; Bacon, Napier, Newton, Locke, Robert Boyle; Caxton, Watt, Herschel, Cavendish; Inigo Jones, Sir Christopher Wren, Hogarth, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Flaxman; John Howard, William Wilberforce; Harvey, Jenner.

Names agreed to by a majority:—Richard Cœur de Lion, Edward I., Edward III., the Black Prince, Henry V., William III., George III.; Cardinal Langton, William of Wickham, Cardinal Wolsey, Earl of Stratford, Lord Falkland, Sir William Temple, Lord Russell, Sir Robert Walpole, Earl of Hardwicke, Earl Camden, Grattan, Warren Hastings; Speaker Onslow; John Wickliffe, John Knox, Cranmer, Archbishop Usher, Archbishop Leighton, Jeremy Taylor, Chillingworth, Barrow, Bishop Butler, John Wesley; Sir John Talbot, Sir John Chandos, Marquis of Montrose, Cromwell, Monk, General Wolfe, Sir Eyre Coote, Sir Ralph

Abercrombie, Sir John Moore; Hawke; Ben Jonson, John Bunyan, Dryden, Pope, Swift, Goldsmith, Burns, Sir William Jones; Robertson, Hume; Fielding; Roger Bacon, Swanton, Brindley, John Hunter, Adam Smith; Purcell; and Garrick.

The appendix also contains a report of committee respecting the selection of persons whose effigies might be placed in the niches in the House of Lords, a letter from Mr. Hallam to justify the selection, and a memorandum respecting places available for statues in the Houses.

The proposal contained in the first, suggested by Prince Albert, is, to fill the niches with the effigies of the principal barons who signed Magna Charta, an admirable proposition; the latter, as it indicates the general arrangement, we give nearly entire:—

The commissioners consider "that, as the entrance to the houses of Parliament by St. Stephen's porch will contain statues of distinguished statesmen, warriors, and other eminent subjects, the entrance by the grand staircase, the landing-place, guard-rooms, Victoria gallery, and lobby to the House of Peers, should contain the statues of sovereigns."

The statues of Egbert, Edgar, Canute, and Edward the Confessor might be fitly placed on the first landing-place.

That the principal landing-place should contain the statues of the sovereigns from William the Conqueror to Edward IV. That the statues of Edward V. to Richard III. might be placed in the guard-room.